

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at

7:00 p.m. in the Wawaloam School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and Frank Maher. Member William Munroe arrived at 7:25 p.m. Superintendent Seitsinger; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Lineham/Wawaloam School Presentation – Principal Myers welcomed all and extended her thanks to School Committee members, staff, students, and parents for their support. Ms. Myers gave an overview of this year's educational programs'

concentrated areas and the newly implemented after school programs. She said the after school programs are made possible thanks to volunteer support from parents and staff members. Ms. Myers said the main focus this year was on the math program. She introduced Ms. Valois and her students Jordan Kiefer and Will Millard who presented, The Valois Class' Grade One Math Graph, "Which Special Class is Your Favorite?"; Mrs. Wieboldt and her students Sam Smiley, Shannon Patterson, and Valerie Pucino who presented, The Wieboldt Class' Grade 1 Data Collection "Pennies for Patients"; and Mrs. Savino's After School Computer Program Web Page Design, Trenton Johnson and Paul DiPadua presenters.

Member Munroe arrived at this time (7:25 p.m.)

Mrs. Kilday distributed Grade 1 Family Math Night invitations and gave a brief overview of what to expect. Ms. Myers summarized with a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting upcoming events at Wawaloam School which include the Children's Retirement Celebration honoring Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Lemme, Mrs. Horan, and Mrs. Sullivan and appreciation to staff for going "above and beyond".

School Committee Apple Recognition Award – Elizabeth Lind – Duck Stamp Teacher of the Year Award Winner – Superintendent Seitsinger asked Ms. Elizabeth Lind to come forward and recognized her as EWG Sr. High Art Teacher and explained she recently received national recognition as Duck Stamp Teacher of the Year for Rhode

Island. It was briefly noted that one of Ms. Lind's students, Emma Walsh recently placed "best in the show" at the most recent Duck Stamp Competition. On behalf of the School

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

Committee, Chair DeSack offered congratulation and "thanks for a job well done" to Ms. Lind and presented her with a small recognition award. Principal Boulé briefly commented that she has been contacted by state organizers of the competition expressing interest in holding next year's competition at EWG Sr. High School. Ms. Boulé conveyed her opinion that the reason for their interest is because of Ms. Lind who has been participating in this program for eight years.

Nurse-Teacher Recognitions – Chair DeSack explained this agenda item was at the request communicated at the last meeting when some members asked to recognize the district's nurse-teachers. Superintendent Seitsinger communicated this item is inspired by one of the district's nurse-teachers who will retire in June 2006. Vice Chair Cicero asked nurse-teacher Deb Larkin to come forward and read the following statement, (written by Member Clay) in recognition of the district's nurse-teachers –

May 9, 2006

The school nurse-teachers work behind the scene. Whether it is Deb

Larkin trekking from Wawaloam to Lineham to Meadowbrook checking the little tykes' temperature or Camille attending to diabetic students at JHS/SHS or Chris and Dawn administering medication to Metcalf students' increasing allergies, or whether they all are meeting after school to fathom new RIDE and RIDH mandates and then write the mandated policies and procedures that keep the district compliant, you don't hear much of or from the nurse-teachers. There are no achievement awards such as received by math, science, and English departments, no best teacher awards, no media recognition, only dedication to their profession. Therefore it is fitting and proper that the School Committee express appreciation for the contribution to education made by E-WG nurse teachers.

The School Committee Red Apple Award will be presented at the next School Committee Meeting on May 23, 2006.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He informed members Teacher Recalls will be forthcoming at the School Committee meeting of May 23, 2006 and/or June 13, 2006.

Member McFadden requested agenda item A. Minutes – Executive Session II Minutes of April 11, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with item A.

**Minutes – Executive Session II Minutes of April 11, 2006 pulled.
Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 - 0.**

The following items were approved:

**A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 25, 2006, Executive Session
Minutes of April 25, 2006**

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

**a. Asa Davis as Volunteer Junior High School Baseball Coach,
effective upon Receipt of Criminal Background Check and
Coaching
Certificate.**

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

**a. Letter of resignation from Jean Murano, for the purpose of
retirement,
from her position as Senior Project Coordinator/Foreign
Language
Department Chair at the Senior High School, with regret,**

**effective June
2006.**

**b. Letter of resignation from Sue-Ann Kresinski, for the
purpose of
retirement, from her position as Grade 4 Teacher at Metcalf
School,
with regret, effective June 2006.**

**c. Letter of resignation from Ronald Sposato, for the purpose of
retirement,
from his position as Special Education Teacher at Metcalf
School, with
regret, effective June 2006.**

**c. Letter of resignation from Carol Grandin, for the purpose of
retirement,
from his position as Grade 4 Teacher at Metcalf School,
with regret,
effective June 2006.**

4. Non-Renewals

5. Grievances

6. Sabbatical Request(s)

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 225,815.14

End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

D. Correspondence- – (1) Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Adoption of Looping at the EWGJHS, (2) May 2, 2006 Providence Journal Article Regarding EWG/Standardized Test Scores, (3) Confidential Memo to School Committee Members from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding April 11, 2006 Level III Grievance Hearing, (4) Invitation to All School Art Open House, (5) E-mail from Gregg Charest Regarding the Junior High School

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

Jazz Band, (6) Invitation from Principal Myers to School Committee Members Regarding Wawaloam Wonders

Member Maher referenced Correspondence (1) and requested this item be placed on the next School Committee meeting agenda for discussion.

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Superintendent's Status

Report.

Business – Referencing the Director of Administration’s Status Report, Member Maher made inquiry regarding Mr. Ross’ anticipation of the school lunch program’s end of the year deficit. Member Maher asked clarifying questions. Mr. Ross reported lunch sales are up, he has been monitoring this line closely, the deficit is declining, and he expressed he anticipates bringing the balance to 0 going forward. Chair DeSack reminded members of previous discussion amongst members relating to perhaps needing to revisit lunch pricing at the end of the school year. This item will carry over to the next agenda for further discussion.

Curriculum – Member McFadden referenced the Curriculum Director’s Status Report and requested it be carried over to the next agenda for discussion as it relates to section SAT Course Update.

Member Maher asked clarifying questions regarding Curriculum Director’s Status Report 3) Grants – Competition to Improve and Strengthen School Emergency Response and Crisis Management Plans. Superintendent Seitsinger confirmed this grant is similar to the one Chariho applied for, EWG also applied but was denied, EWG will apply again, and EWG has consulted with Chariho’s grant writer(s) in order to seek advice for success.

Special Education – Members did not express any questions or

concerns regarding the Special Education Status Report.

Maintenance – Member Maher referenced the Maintenance Status Report and recommended Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley provides his monthly Status Report to building principals for their information and input. Superintendent Seitsinger explained Mr. Plumley and building principals have the opportunity during Ad Staff meetings to do so. Principal Boulé confirmed she and Mr. Plumley do have those conversations and he does keep her abreast of pending projects in her building. Member Maher suggested leaving it up to the discretion of each building principal if they want a copy of Mr. Plumley's monthly Status Report.

Monthly Budget Projection 2004 – 2005 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the 2004 -2005 budget is still in the black. Member McFadden asked Mr. Ross

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

to project if the SPED Resource Balance of \$126,729 will remain the same for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Ross communicated he anticipates no additional expenses then what is shown in his report - provided all things remain equal and he anticipates the Net Fund Balance to remain in the black. Members and Administrators briefly discussed the Sr. High School Foreign Language and Science lines. Mr. Ross offered to provide members with detailed information

regarding this matter at the next School Committee meeting. This item will carry over to the next agenda.

Monthly Sub Committee Report – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay explained the Student Medication Policy will be reintroduced probably at the next meeting, as it requires very minor modifications.

NEW BUSINESS- Policies – Review and Adoption – None

EWG Art Club – Superintendent Seitsinger informed members the Senior High School is requesting the establishment of an Art Club and is seeking School Committee approval in order to be compliant with contract language. Their request is for next school year and will require the authorization of a projected stipend of approximately \$1,230.

Member Clay moved to approve the EWG Art Club. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Discussion: Some members asked clarifying questions. Superintendent Seitsinger explained materials typically are donated or are a continuation of the art class projects worked on during class time, the Art Club funding will come from the Art Department budget, this is not a separate line item or an add-on, and this is a new club.

Voted 7 – 0. Motion carried.

Compuclaim – At the previous School Committee meeting, Member Maher had pulled correspondence (1) Letter to Mr. Ross from UMass Medical School Subcontractor to Compuclaim and requested this item continue onto tonight's agenda for clarification and discussion. Director of Administration Robert Ross and members discussed the fact that UMass Medical School, subcontractor to Compuclaim, has made a serious error in the calculation of the Medicaid school administrative claim for the district for the quarter ended September 2005. This results in some financial implications for the district as it will now have to reimburse the RI Department of Human Services (\$28,000). Member Maher expressed his concerns of future, similar occurrences and recommended implementing internal safeguards to protect the district. Mr. Ross explained this item comes in as revenue under Medicaid which is budgeted for, the district did not expend the funds budgeted for Medicaid, Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo and Mr. Ross have met with a Compuclaim representative once about this and will again, and most districts use this service; the alternative would be to hire a clerk.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Standard Life Insurance Renewal – There was a brief discussion relating to eliminating School Committee members' life insurance

coverage. Superintendent Seitsinger reported the cost of their coverage is very nominal – (\$2.00 per member). Member Clay moved to renew Standard Life Insurance coverage. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Review of Bond Meeting – Chair DeSack stated the Review of Bond Meeting scheduled for April 29, 2006's date and time were selected by all members and arranged around some members' schedules, yet there was not a quorum present at the meeting. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, and Member Clay were the only members in attendance.

She said members present did review the entire proposed list and prioritized it in order to have it ready to bring forward at the next joint meeting. She said Mr. Ross has summary reports and will make sure members receive a copy.

Group Home Legislative Support Resolution – Superintendent Seitsinger reported presently there are over 200 house bills on education and referred particularly to two pertaining to group homes. (1) A bill to increase state aid per bed from \$15,000 to \$25,000 and (2) a bill to provide more notification time in order to better control monitoring students. He said it is not necessary to send a letter of support for the resolution, as it will not have the impact the district had hoped for.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policy Review and Adoption - Policy #7810-Homework - Revision – Member Clay confirmed members'

recommended revisions were made. Member McFadden moved to accept Policy 7810 – Homework – Revision. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Policy #3201-Annual Budget Process - Adoption – Member Clay confirmed the previously recommended amendments were made.

Superintendent Seitsinger referred back to Policy #7810-Homework – Revision and requested clarification - the policy effective date will not take place upon approval, but will take place on September 1, 2006. Member Clay will make the change.

Member Coutcher moved to adopt Policy #3201-Annual Budget Process. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

Policy #3206-District Financial Meeting – Adoption – Member Clay confirmed the recommended amendments were made to Policy #3206.

Member Maher left the meeting at this time (8:20 p.m.).

Member Clay moved to adopt Policy #3206-District Financial Meeting. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Members and Superintendent Seitsinger had a lengthy discussion concerning policy language in Section 6. Motion to Call The Question.

Member Maher returned at this time (8:25 p.m.).

Members and the Superintendent continued to discuss at length and exchange opinions and concerns relating to the necessity of the second sentence in Section 6. - This motion, if it prevails, cuts off debate, and calls for an immediate vote on the pending motion. Members came to a consensus after hearing Clerk Coutcher's suggestion to add a clause to the policy to cut off debate only after polling the audience. Chair DeSack emphasized the ground rules will however prevail, i.e., length of time and number of times a voter may speak. This policy will continue to the next meeting for adoption.

Emergency Notification – Superintendent Seitsinger, as a follow-up to discussion at previous School Committee meetings, recommended purchasing emergency notification services from NTI/Ed Connect, initiating it in August 2006. He reported an approximate cost of \$8,030 per year and said he has spoken with other districts using this service, (Westerly, South Kingstown, and Chariho) with much success. Member Munroe moved to accept the Superintendent recommendation to purchase emergency notification services from

NTI/Ed Connect. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Substitute Teachers – Superintendent Seitsinger requested this item carry over to the next agenda, in order to allow him additional time to gather good cost analysis information for members to review. This item was tabled until the next agenda.

Strategic Planning Recommendation – Superintendent Seitsinger referenced members' supplementary packet and explained it contains a Final Draft of the EWG 2006-2011 Strategic Plan which requires School Committee acceptance. In order to allow members time to review the final draft, this item will carry over to the next agenda for acceptance.

2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Superintendent Seitsinger conveyed there is no additional information to report at this time.

Leave of Absence Request Review – Superintendent Seitsinger explained the supplemental packet contains a confidential document pertaining to the information members had requested at the previous meeting. Chair DeSack moved to deny the request from Mary L. Greboval for an extension of her leave of absence to include the school year 2006 – 2007. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7 – 0.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 9, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 8

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – May 23, 2006 – School Committee

Meeting-(Jr. High School Presentation), May 29, 2006 – Memorial Day, June 5,

2006 – Last Day for Seniors, June 10, 2006 – Graduation Day, June 13, 2006 –

School Committee Meeting, June 20, 2006 – 180th Day of School

Vice Chair Cicero added Honors Night is scheduled for June 1, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the item pulled from the consent agenda. Member McFadden pulled consent agenda item Executive Session II Minutes of April 11, 2006 for discussion. He requested additional modification and asked the minutes be amended to reflect the amount of time the music and physical education teachers went to the classrooms. Consensus was the minutes will be amended and brought to the next meeting for approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at

8:50 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Voted – 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Chair DeSack moved to return to open session at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7 - 0.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK